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Platinum-selling duo Frenship talk albums and touring. 9

American latest to die attempting to climb Mt. Everest. 6

Mena Massoud explains the process in becoming Aladdin. 10-11

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WAITING FOR CANTON'S CALL

After Donovan McNabb's recent Hall of Fame comments, columnist Glen Macnow breaks down his three Eagles worthy of being enshrined in Canton. 15

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

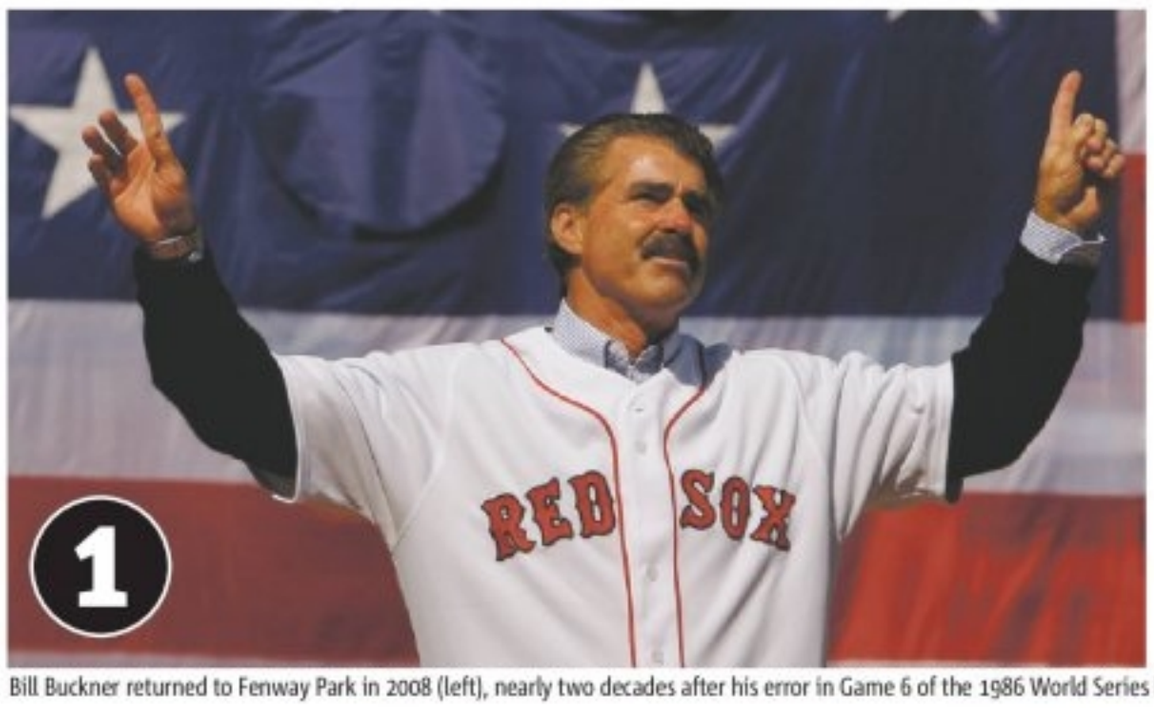
Metro's Weather Report

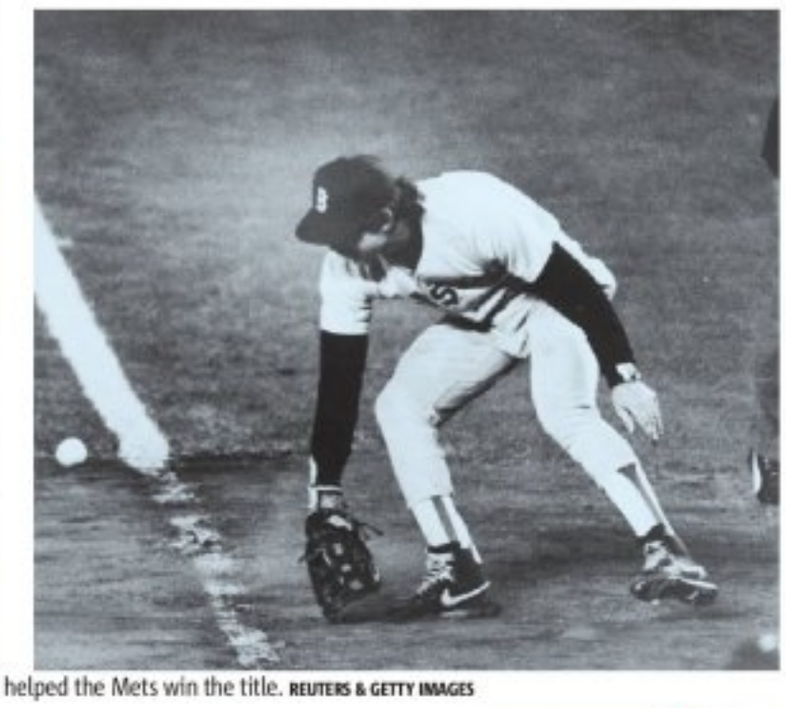
NOAA-NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
80° | 64°	82° | 67°	90° | 69°	83° | 64°	83° | 64°
Chance showers	Slight chance T-storms then chance showers	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny

Former Red Sox 1st baseman Buckner dies after battle with dementia

A well-respected hitter, Buckner will forever be known, though, for his 1986 World Series Game 6 error.





Bill Buckner returned to Fenway Park in 2008 (left), nearly two decades after his error in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series helped the Mets win the title. REUTERS & GETTY IMAGES

Bill Buckner, the 1980 National League batting champion who registered more than 2,700 hits during a career that touched four decades, died Monday after a battle with dementia. He was 69.

Buckner debuted with the Los Angeles Dodgers at age 19 in 1969, became an All-Star, won a batting title with the Chicago Cubs, and committed the infamous error at first base for the Boston Red Sox during the 1986 World Series.

"After battling the disease of Lewy Body Dementia, Bill Buckner passed away early the morning of May 27th surrounded by his family," his family said in a statement. "Bill fought with courage and grit as he did all things in life. Our hearts are broken but we are at peace knowing he is in the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Buckner batted better than .300 in seven seasons, including a National League-leading .324 clip in 1980. The left-handed batter also led the NL in doubles in his All-Star season of 1981 (35) and 1983 (38) and retired after the 1990 season with a .289 lifetime average and 2,715 hits, 174 homers, 498 doubles, 1,077 runs and 1,208 RBIs in 2,517 games.

Despite those numbers, Buckner was forever linked to his defensive gaffe in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series against the New York Mets.

Seeking their first title since 1918, the Red Sox were up 3-2 in the series and leading 5-3 in the bottom of the 10th inning. After the Mets scored two runs to tie it, a ground ball by Mookie Wilson passed through Buckner's legs and allowed Ray Knight to score the winning run. New York went on to win Game 7, and the error became the defining moment of Buckner's career.

"We had developed a friendship that lasted well over 30 years," Wilson said, via the Mets. "I felt badly for some of the things he went through. Bill was a great, great baseball player whose legacy should not be defined by one play."

Buckner returned to Boston's Fenway Park for the 2008 home opener, after the Red Sox had won their second World Series in four years. He received a two-minute standing ovation before throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.

"I thought [that] was kind of a healing moment, it seemed, for a lot of people and maybe for him, I hope," Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona, the Red Sox skipper in 2008, said on MLB.com. "You have to be up here to understand how people take things that happen. I thought that was a really cool moment."

Former Dodgers teammate and longtime major league manager Bobby Valentine expressed his grief on social media. "As I clear my head and hold back the tears, I know I will always remember Billy Buck as a great hitter and a better friend. He deserved better," Valentine tweeted.

Buckner, who retired to Boise, Idaho, is survived by his wife, Jody, and three children, Brittany, Christen and Bobby. REUTERS

BobbyValentine
@BobbyValentine

As I clear my head and hold back the tears I know I will always remember Billy Buck as a great hitter and a better friend. He deserved better. Thank god for his family. I ll miss u Buck!

Divided pro-EU leaders open talks after election

2 Parties committed to closer European Union integration began bargaining over jobs and policy on Monday after an election to the E.U. parliament which fragmented the center but gave only limited gains to nationalists. National leaders of the bloc, many of whom hailed the vote as a vindication, will meet to chart the next steps on Tuesday. Matteo Salvini, Italian deputy prime minister, leader of the anti-immigration League and potential builder of a far-right alliance across Europe, said his 34 percent of the Italian national vote was a mandate to rip up euro zone budget austerity rules. But despite other wins for eurosceptics in big countries, including France, Poland and would-be ex-member Britain, the result was taken as a vote of confidence by mainstream leaders after turnout surged and nationalists advanced only modestly. REUTERS

At least 9 miners die after Zimbabwe mine collapse

3 At least nine illegal gold miners have died in Zimbabwe after they detonated explosives underground and were trapped at a mine owned by unlisted London-headquartered Metallon Corporation north of the capital Harare, the company said on Monday. Metallon put its Mazowe Mine on care and maintenance last September, citing viability problems. One of Zimbabwe's biggest gold producers, it still operates three other mines. Metallon said in a statement the mine collapse happened on Sunday when illegal miners gained access to underground shafts and blasted explosives. "Tragically nine panners lost their lives. None of these miners were employees of Metallon and all those involved with keeping the mine on care and maintenance have been accounted for," Metallon said. REUTERS

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U.S. President Donald Trump meets with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Akasaka Palace. REUTERS

Trump presses Japan on trade gap, expects 'good things' from N. Korea

The president expects "big moves" on trade with Japan in the upcoming months.

President Donald Trump pressed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday to even out a trade imbalance with the United States and said he was happy with how things were going with North Korea but was in no rush to reach a peace deal.

Trump told a news conference with Abe after their summit that his goal was to remove trade barriers to put U.S. exports on a fair footing in Japan. He said he hoped to have more to announce on trade very soon and said he and Abe had agreed to expand cooperation in human space exploration.

"We have an unbelievably large imbalance, as you know, trade imbalance with Japan for many, many years, Japan having the big advantage," Trump said.

> **"They are brilliant business people, brilliant negotiators, and put us in a very tough spot. But I think we will have a deal with Japan."**
> President Trump

"They are brilliant business people, brilliant negotiators, and put us in a very tough spot. But I think we will have a deal with Japan," he added.

Abe, for his part, said the two leaders had agreed to speed up trade talks but dodged a question about timing.

Trump, who is on a four-day state visit to Japan meant to showcase the Japan-U.S. alliance, said on Twitter on Sunday that he expected big moves on trade would wait until after Japan's upper house election in July.

"Trade-wise, I think we'll be announcing some things, probably in August, that will be very good for both countries," Trump said on Monday at the start of the talks. "We'll get the balance of trade, I think, straightened out rapidly."

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura told reporters there was no agreement to reach a trade deal by August.

Abe, who has developed a warm relationship with Trump since the U.S. leader came to office, stressed the closeness of ties.

"This visit of President Trump and Madame Trump is a golden opportunity to clearly show the unshakable bond to the whole world and inside Japan as well," Abe told the news conference.

Earlier, Trump was greeted by Emperor Naruhito and his Harvard-educated wife at the imperial palace in a formal welcome ceremony broadcast live.

Trump is the first foreign dignitary to be received by the monarch since the latter inherited the throne after his father, Akihito, stepped down on April 30 in the first abdication by a Japanese emperor in two centuries.

BOND OF FRIENDSHIP

Emperor Naruhito and his wife Empress Masako hosted a six-course state dinner on Monday for Trump and his wife, Melania, and dozens of guests, many of whom were dressed in tuxedos or colorful kimonos.

In his toast, Naruhito highlighted how it was with the United States that Japan forged a treaty when in 1854 it emerged from more than 200 years of self-imposed isolation.

"Since then, our two nations and peoples have overcome various hardships to cultivate mutual understanding and trust to become extremely close Pacific neighbors bound by a strong friendship," he said.

On Sunday, Trump spent what he said was "an incredible evening" watching the Japanese national sport of sumo — where nearly naked wrestlers grapple on a raised sand ring — after he and Abe had bonded over hamburgers and golf.

REUTERS

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Trump doubles down on Biden criticism and embrace of Kim Jong-un

President Trump said he agreed with Kim Jong-un's "low IQ" assessment of Joe Biden. REUTERS

President Donald Trump doubled down on his support for North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's scathing view of former Vice President Joe Biden on Monday, dismissing criticism that he was siding with a dictator over a fellow American.

"Well, Kim Jong-un made a statement that Joe Biden is a low-IQ individual. He probably is, based on his record. I think I agree with him on that," Trump told a news conference in Tokyo.

The comments reinforced a tweet that Trump sent on Saturday with a similar message, and drew renewed criticism of the president.

North Korea's state-run news agency issued a stinging attack last week on Biden, who has been critical of the isolated state.

Trump has targeted Biden with increasing criticism as the former vice president rises in polls for the Democratic presidential nomination to challenge Trump in 2020.

The president often derides his political opponents, but his tweet on Sunday and his comments on Monday were notable because he issued them while abroad and aligned himself with Kim, considered a brutal dictator by many.

The comments came during the U.S. Memorial Day weekend. The federal holiday remembers and honors people who have died while serving in the U.S. armed forces.

"We're going to have to retire the word 'unprecedented' during Trump's presidency," said Larry Sabato, presidential historian and director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

"It's becoming the new normal. And disgraceful, of course," he wrote on Twitter.

One of Trump's fellow Republicans, U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, called out the president on Sunday for "praising a dictator" and attacking Biden over the Memorial Day weekend.

"It's just plain wrong," Kinzinger, a military veteran, said on Twitter.

Biden's campaign and the Democratic National Committee did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Pete Buttigieg, a Democratic candidate for president and Navy veteran, was also critical on Monday. "Kim Jong-un is a murderous dictator and Vice President Biden served this country honorably. It's just one more example, though, of the way that this president tries to draw attention to himself by saying things that shock the conscience."

Trump has sought to build a strong relationship with the North Korean leader in the hope that North Korea would agree to denuclearize.

Trump also knocked Biden and former President Barack Obama on Monday for their efforts to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. Trump pulled the United States out of a nuclear deal Iran sealed with Washington and other foreign powers.

> **"What he uttered is just sophism of an imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being, let alone a politician."**
>
> North Korean state news agency KCNA

"Joe Biden was a disaster, his administration with President Obama, they were basically a disaster when it came to so many things, whether it was economy, whether it was military ... no matter what it was, they had a lot of problems," Trump said, when asked about criticism that he was favoring Kim over the former vice president.

"So, I'm not a fan."

A commentary by North Korea's KCNA state media on Tuesday slammed Biden for "rhetoric slandering the supreme leadership of the DPRK [Democratic People's Republic of Korea]."

"What he uttered is just sophism of an imbecile bereft of elementary quality as a human being, let alone a politician," the North Korean news agency said. REUTERS

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Mount Everest is seen in the Everest region, some 100 miles northeast of Kathmandu. ALL GETTY IMAGES

American climber dies on descent from summit of Mount Everest

Christopher John Kulish died suddenly after climbing the 29,035-foot peak.

An American climber died on the descent from the summit of Mount Everest on Monday, a Nepalese official said, taking the number of dead or missing mountaineers on the world's highest mountain to nine on the Nepali side during the current climbing season.

Christopher John Kulish, 61, scaled the 29,035-foot peak from the normal Southeast Ridge route in the morning but died suddenly at South Col after descending from the summit, Mira Acharya, a Nepal tourism department official said.

The authorities did not say where he was from in the United States. The cause of his death was unclear.

Most of the deaths on Everest this year have been attributed to exhaustion and tiredness, exacerbated because a crowded route to and from the summit has led to delays. The short climbing season ends this month.

The route, also called the South Col route, was pioneered by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953.

About 5,000 people have scaled the Everest summit so far and about 300 have died on its slopes.

Two climbers were also confirmed dead on the Tibetan side of Mount Everest this climbing season.

A record 381 climbers had been permitted to scale the summit from the Nepali side this season. About 130 others were tackling Everest from the mountain's northern side in Tibet.

REUTERS

Teva Pharm to pay Oklahoma $85 million to settle opioid claims

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries said on Sunday it had agreed to pay an $85 million settlement with the state of Oklahoma days before the company was set to face trial over allegations that it and other drugmakers helped fuel the U.S. opioid epidemic.

Teva, the world's largest generic drugmaker, said the settlement "does not establish any wrongdoing on the part of the company" and denied contributing to opioid abuse in Oklahoma.

Claims against Teva focused on the branded opioid products Actiq and Fentora as well as generic painkillers it produced.

The trial against Israel-based Teva, along with Johnson & Johnson, was set to begin on Tuesday. The lawsuit alleged the companies' marketing of the painkiller was to blame for the opioid epidemic.

In a statement, Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc., a J&J subsidiary, said it had acted responsibly and was ready for trial. It said it disagreed with what it called Oklahoma's "overly expansive theories" of public nuisance law, and said they should not apply in this situation.

"At the same time, as with all litigation, if an appropriate resolution is possible that avoids the expense and uncertainty of a trial, we are always open to that option," the company said in a statement.

Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter has alleged that J&J and Teva, along with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma LP, carried out deceptive marketing campaigns that downplayed opioids' addictive risks while overstating their benefits.

The state also alleges the companies' actions created an oversupply of painkillers and a public nuisance that will cost $12.7 billion to $17.5 billion to remedy.

Oklahoma resolved its claims against Purdue Pharma LP in March for $270 million.

The Oklahoma case is being closely watched by plaintiffs in other opioid cases, particularly some 1,850 mostly municipal and state governments that have sued the same drugmakers in the federal court in Ohio.

"Teva is pleased to put the Oklahoma case behind it and remains prepared to vigorously defend claims against the company, including the upcoming federal court trial in Cleveland where the majority of the cases are pending," the company said. REUTERS

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries. GETTY IMAGES

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READER WRITE-INS:

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I hate buying a bag of chips only to find out that either it's 75 percent air or that every single chip has been smashed to bits when I open it. How hard is it to make sure that there are enough "chips" in each bag?

— **Pete,** *Metro US reader*

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Make changes that will help you get ahead. Adding to your qualifications, setting up meetings or taking care of unfinished business will help you advance. Live, learn and love.

Taurus A physical change will give you the boost you need. Live a healthy lifestyle and benefit from doing what's best for you. Love and romance will enhance your life.

Gemini Keep your emotions under control. The less you let others know about you personally, the easier it will be to get things done without interference. Don't believe everything you hear.

Cancer Seize the moment and do something that brings you joy. Getting together with someone who shares your interests will bring you closer. Romance is in the stars.

Leo Don't make an unnecessary change. Stick to what works, and avoid what someone else is trying to lure you into. Trust your intelligence, experience and insight, not what others tell you.

Virgo Don't just think about what you want to do; make it happen. A physical change will lift your spirits and give you the confidence to do what makes you happy.

Libra Think matters through and make decisions based on what you discover. Refuse to let someone meddle in your affairs or make plans for you. Use your time constructively.

Scorpio Don't leave anything to chance. Size up your situation and take an innovative approach to whatever you decide to do. Someone you find interesting will spark your imagination and inspire you.

Sagittarius Look for reasonable opportunities that you can take advantage of without counting on someone else. An empty promise is likely if you rely on others.

Capricorn Keep your emotions out of important decisions. Do the work yourself and get things right the first time. A positive change at home will bring you closer to a loved one.

Aquarius Suggest changes you want to make at home or work. Be ready and willing to put in the time to complete the task you set out to do.

Pisces Don't let emotions ruin your plans. Disagreements will not solve a problem, but compromise and understanding will. Walk away from excessive situations. A change of heart is likely. EUGENIA LAST

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Take a break from the real world

Platinum-selling duo Frenship discuss their new album and tour.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Frenship play Union Transfer on June 3. GETTY IMAGES

Summer is almost here and it's time to take a vacation with the platinum-selling duo Frenship (Brett Hite and James Sunderland), who recently released their debut full-length album and are now hitting the road with their "Vacation" tour. The L.A.-based duo took the music world by storm with their 2016 smash-hit single "Capsize," featuring Emily Warren, but if you think that's the epitome of Frenship's talent and success, you're in for a treat. Besides wanting every show to feel as intimate as it is high-energy, both Hite and Sunderland want to inspire audiences to leave the real world behind and take a break from their problems — or a vacation, if you will. Sunderland and Hite sat down with Metro to discuss their new album, their inspirations and what you can expect from their tour this summer.

"Vacation" is your first full-length album. What went into writing this album and what was the inspiration?

Brett Hite (BH): I don't know if just one thing claimed it for what it was about, but I think there was a general sense of being tired of the situation that we were in, both in, like, living in L.A. and kind of missing the mountains and the trees and then [with] the label. Where we were was really exhausting and not helping us much, so I think there's a bit of desire or longing. Longing to get away, longing for the people we miss. So yeah, I think that longing went into making this.

Do you have a favorite song on the album, or a favorite song to perform?

JS: I really love "Get Out My Way," and I love playing "Run II U." I don't sing a ton on that one, but it's kind of nice to just sit back and let Brett do what he does, so I would say those two do it for me.

How was collaborating with Bastille and Yoke Lore for the album?

BH: Great. Collaborations are not always an easy thing but they tend to be a lot easier and more natural when the people kind of feel like family to you. And both of them do feel like family to us. It just kind of helps smooth things along. You don't have to spend the first few hours working with them trying to figure out who they are and where they are at in life before you even start going.

Are there any other artists that you would like to collaborate with?

JS: Oh yeah, probably too many to name. We're huge fans of Boniver and we're still Coldplay fans. We would love to get in the room with Chris Martin sometime. Those are two of our muses.

What do you like most about taking your music on the road?

BH: For me, it's very specific: looking out and seeing people's faces. You can see the story of what the song means to them. With this tour, I'm curious to see how it goes because it starts the day after the album gets released. We will see if people are familiar with our new stuff at all.

Overall, what can audience members expect when attending a concert of yours?

JS: I think that they can expect to forget their lives for an hour and a half. I think that is the goal [with] every show, to try to keep people trapped in that room, not texting, not on their phones. It really is us trying to keep people present. I think people can expect to be present for an hour and a half, which is hard to do.

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'I had to learn a lot to play Aladdin'

MENA MASSOUD

Mena Massoud never thought he would ever get the chance to play his favorite Disney character. But his wish did come true. We spoke with the Canadian-based actor about playing the role of his dreams.

DANIEL CASSILAS
DANIEL CASILLAS MWN

Were you an "Aladdin" fan before you started to work on this movie?
I've been watching the film since I was a kid. You know, I've probably watched it over 25 times and it's a great honor to be able to be a part of it.

What did you feel about being the human version of "Aladdin"?
Yeah, I loved it. He is a very complex character and he goes on this incredible journey. And the sheer amount of things I had to learn for playing him: the singing, the dancing, the action... I had to learn a lot to be able to play him and he taught me a lot.

Did you enjoy the singing and dancing part?
Yeah, absolutely. We had an amazing time learning how to do all the numbers and putting together the musical numbers. It was very artistically satisfying.

Tell us more about your character. How do you define Aladdin?
Aladdin is a young man who goes on this journey of self-discovery. He is trying to discover who he is and who he wants to become in this next chapter of his life. And, you know, he is trying to learn that he is good enough as who he is deep down inside.

What was your favorite scene from the film?
My favorite scene? Oh, it's a tough one. I would say my favorite scene is the Jean Genie scene. I got to improvise with

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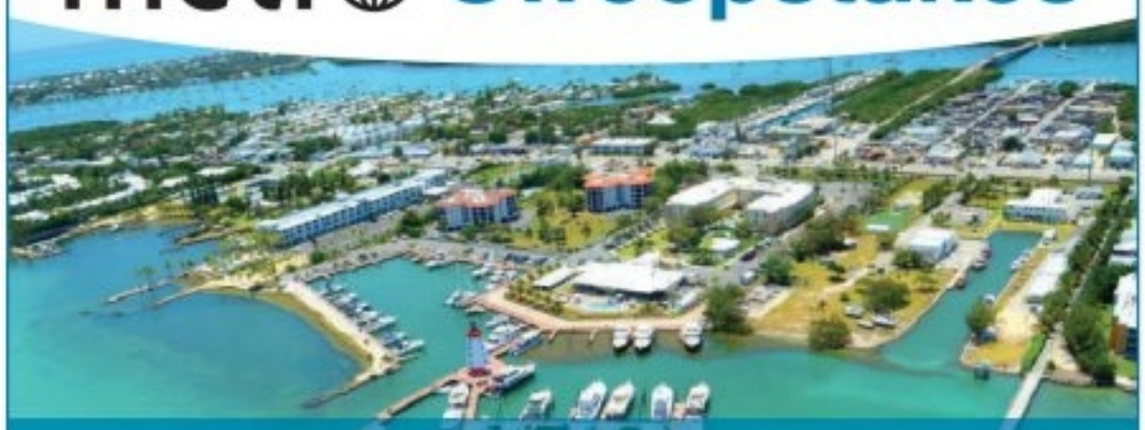

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Mena Massoud in "Aladdin." DISNEY

Will [Smith], and I have been watching him since I was a kid. So getting to improvise with him was a dream come true.

How was it working with him?
It was great. We often would be on set and he would start beat boxing and dancing. And me and Naomi would join in. And then before you know it, all the dancers would join in. So it was kind of like always having a party on set.

The film presents Jasmine as a strong woman. What is your opinion on that?
Yeah, we definitely shifted focus on Jasmine and portrayed her as an empowered character. We wanted to draw the parallel between her and what her mom used to be. And we referenced her mom being a very beloved queen. And Jasmine grows up wanting to be like her. So, I think it is very important for little boys and girls these days to get that message.

Do you think that in recent years princesses have become more powerful in films?
I certainly think they are in our film. I'm not sure if in the past few films they've been portrayed that way, but I think that we wanted to make it clear and obvious. So, we really focused on that this time.

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STUNNING LOOKS AT THE 2019 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Incredible and wonderful: Although the event is known for its glamour, it is always a delight to see those who reaffirm its essence. **LUZ LANCHEROS, MWN**

The Cannes Film Festival, after the awards season, is one of the most important events not only in film, but in the fashion industry. Year after year, stars show their display of creativity in their ensembles, or simply evoke references already built off of past glamorous icons.

But some celebs show with their outfits that all this can be adapted to their own essence, or that of the film to be released. That there are elements which make them eternal icons, or that create those which younger generations that share their red carpet looks with delight, dream of. Based on this, Metro chose the looks that differed on this red carpet.

ELLE FANNING

Absolute art with her salmon-colored Gucci, far from extravagant but quite adapted to a classic cinematographic elegance, perfectly contrasted with red lips and impeccable hair. It's thanks to actresses like her that red carpets exist: to show the dazzling glamour of the film industry. And Fanning, as the youngest jury of the festival, also gave us a lesson with another splendid, dreamy look from Valentino Spring/Summer 2019.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY

GUAN XIAOTONG

She brought cinematic elegance to almost a fantasy level. Not quite like Elle Fanning's Grace Kelly-Hollywood yesteryear, but she evoked baroque in an Atelier Versace gown with intricate embroidery in amethyst, gold and cream, complementing it all with simple styling.

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TILDA SWINTON

The queen of minimalist and androgynous elegance has always been faithful to Franco-Colombian designer Haider Ackermann and his drapes and exquisite silhouettes. And Cannes '19 was no exception. Swinton dazzled in a white blazer at the press presentation next to Selena Gomez, more glamorous than ever in a custom gray sequined tunic, evoking all the elements that make her a fashion icon with those powerful and timeless pieces.

JULIANNE MOORE

An exquisite

contrast between the sequined disco world of the '70s and a subtle pink touch, in a Givenchy Haute Couture gown with matching makeup in (very trendy) pink tones by L'Oreal, a brand for which Moore serves as ambassador. All this for the premiere of Elton John biopic "Rocketman."

ARAYA HARGATE

An impressive gradient of Ralph & Russo tulles in a seasonal color and texture. When placed in all the right places, such a construction can be a spectacle. Hargate's other looks at the festival didn't stay too far back, either, and will be recalled for their exaggeration but without being too camp or obvious — very much in touch with the festival's glamour.

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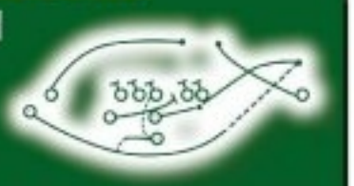

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NBA Finals betting opportunities

Sharp dog lovers are jumping all over the Raptors.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

The championship round for the NBA is now set with the Raptors offering the Warriors their first non-Cleveland Cavaliers Finals challenge since the Golden State dynasty began.

The Warriors are, of course, the heavy favorites to win the series, sitting at around -300 at most books. But with the health of Kevin Durant in question, with Kawhi Leonard's history of success against Golden State, and looking at the fact that the Raptors won both meetings against the Warriors in the regular season, this series could certainly be a close one.

PointsBet has set prop odds on how long the series will go as follows:

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VSiN preview

Betting on the series price in Raptors–Warriors has been surprisingly active in Las Vegas.

"The Westgate in Las Vegas was up quickly with Golden State at -275 to advance (risk $275 to win $100, or anything in that ratio), and a price of +225 on Toronto to spring the upset (risk $100 to win $225). Earlier during the Eastern finals, it was anticipated that Golden State would be closer to -400, Toronto +300. Nevada is "Warriors country" because of its proximity to California. And, many casual bettors prefer betting on the superior team rather than white-knuckling an underdog play. When pricing, oddsmakers had to weigh those dynamics against the improved form of Toronto during its four-win tear.

"Warriors money jumped in very quickly at -275, causing a surge to -310 from the Westgate in hopes of discouraging a gold rush. Toronto rose to +250.

"Sharp dog lovers pounced on the Raptors at that price, bringing the Westgate back to -300/+240. There was plenty of variance in Las Vegas and offshore, which gave investors an opportunity to shop for the best possible price.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Darren Rovell
@darrenrovell

When the Raptors were down 2-0 to the Bucks, FanDuel offered its highest odds of the season on Toronto to win the title (18/1). They didn't take a single bet.

Sports betting 101

How to bet on baseball

Betting on baseball continues to grow quickly and is expected to be a $1.5 billion regulated betting market for the 2019 season. The main reason why betting on baseball is becoming popular is the vast frequency of regular-season games (2430 in MLB vs. 256 in the NFL).

There are a variety of bets available to make on a baseball game, but backing a team on the moneyline is the easiest baseball bet to understand as you simply pick one team to win.

In each MLB game there is a favorite and an underdog. The favorite is the team that the oddsmakers project to win. Their odds are represented by a "minus sign" followed by a three-digit number (Phillies - 150).

The underdog is the team the oddsmakers project to lose and their team odds are represented by a "plus sign" followed by a three-digit number (Mets +130).

Here's how the betting works in this example. Bet/risk $150 on Phillies (the favorite) to win $100 or bet/risk $100 on the Mets (the underdog) to win $130.

The sportsbook oddsmaker uses a variety of data and stats to set the line, however baseball odds are predominately determined by the starting pitchers.

For instance, when a pitcher like the Phillies Aaron Nola (with a record of 17-6 in the 2018 season) is the starting pitcher, the Phillies will most often be the favorite. METROBET

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THE SPORTS PROFESSOR

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Donovan McNabb thinks he should be a Hall of Famer. GETTY IMAGES

Donovan McNabb is correct. There is a retired Eagles great who belongs in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. In fact, I can name three strong candidates.

It's just that none happen to be him.

The former quarterback and full-time provocateur brashly laid out his case for Canton last week to the sports geniuses at TMZ. McNabb compared himself favorably with Jim Kelly and Troy Aikman. He set reaching the NFC title game (as opposed to the Super Bowl) as the bar for greatness. And he noted that — one year of Terrell Owens aside — he never got to play with great receivers.

Being your own campaign spokesman is never a good look. And implying that teammates kept you from achieving immortality is, well, typical of the so-called team leader who spent 11 seasons in midnight green deflecting blame.

Look, McNabb was an excellent quarterback. The best in modern franchise history. He is, deservedly, in the Eagles Hall of Fame and his No. 5 jersey is retired. All great honors.

But in three years of eligibility, he has never been a finalist for Canton. That's not likely to change. For quarterbacks to get a Hall pass, they need either Super Bowl rings (Aikman has three, plus the SB XXVII MVP) or imposing stats (like Dan Marino or Dan Fouts).

McNabb has no rings, of course. Playing in an era when rules favored the offense, his stats compare with passers like Drew Bledsoe, Boomer Esiason and Tony Romo. Trust me, no one's making a case for Romo to get sized for a gold jacket.

But while McNabb hit sour notes tooting his own horn last week, there are three Eagles legends deserving enshrinement. All played earlier than Donovan, so memories of their greatness may be fading.

Since all have the good grace not to scream through their own megaphone, I'll do it for them:

Eric Allen started for 14 years in the NFL — all as a premier cornerback. He made the Pro Bowl five times in his seven seasons with the Eagles and is tied for the franchise record with 34 interceptions. Overall, he intercepted 54 passes, returning eight for TDs.

Allen wasn't flashy like Deion Sanders, and perhaps that hurts his chances with voters. But he played fast and smart and was that rare cornerback willing to punish a receiver.

Harold Carmichael. All these years later, his stats may not blow you away. But when Carmichael retired in 1984, he ranked sixth all-time in receptions (590), and seventh all-time in both receiving yards (8,985) and receiving TDs (79).

The 6-foot-8 target caught at least one pass in 127 consecutive games, a streak that long served as an NFL record.

Seth Joyner. Famous for his scowl (I've been on the receiving end of it), Joyner is the only player in NFL history with at least 50 sacks and 20 interceptions. He also had 25 forced fumbles, 12 fumble recoveries and 1,056 tackles over a 13-year career, the first eight spent with the Eagles.

Playing linebacker, Joyner was a centerpiece on the great 1991 Eagles Gang Green defense that finished first against the rush, first against the pass, and led the league in sacks, turnovers and fewest points allowed. In a project two years ago, ESPN and Football Outsiders ranked that defense the best of the NFL since 1987.

Chances are none of my candidates will ever have their bust in Canton. But if there's debate as to which former Eagles deserve it, I'll put my three over No. 5.

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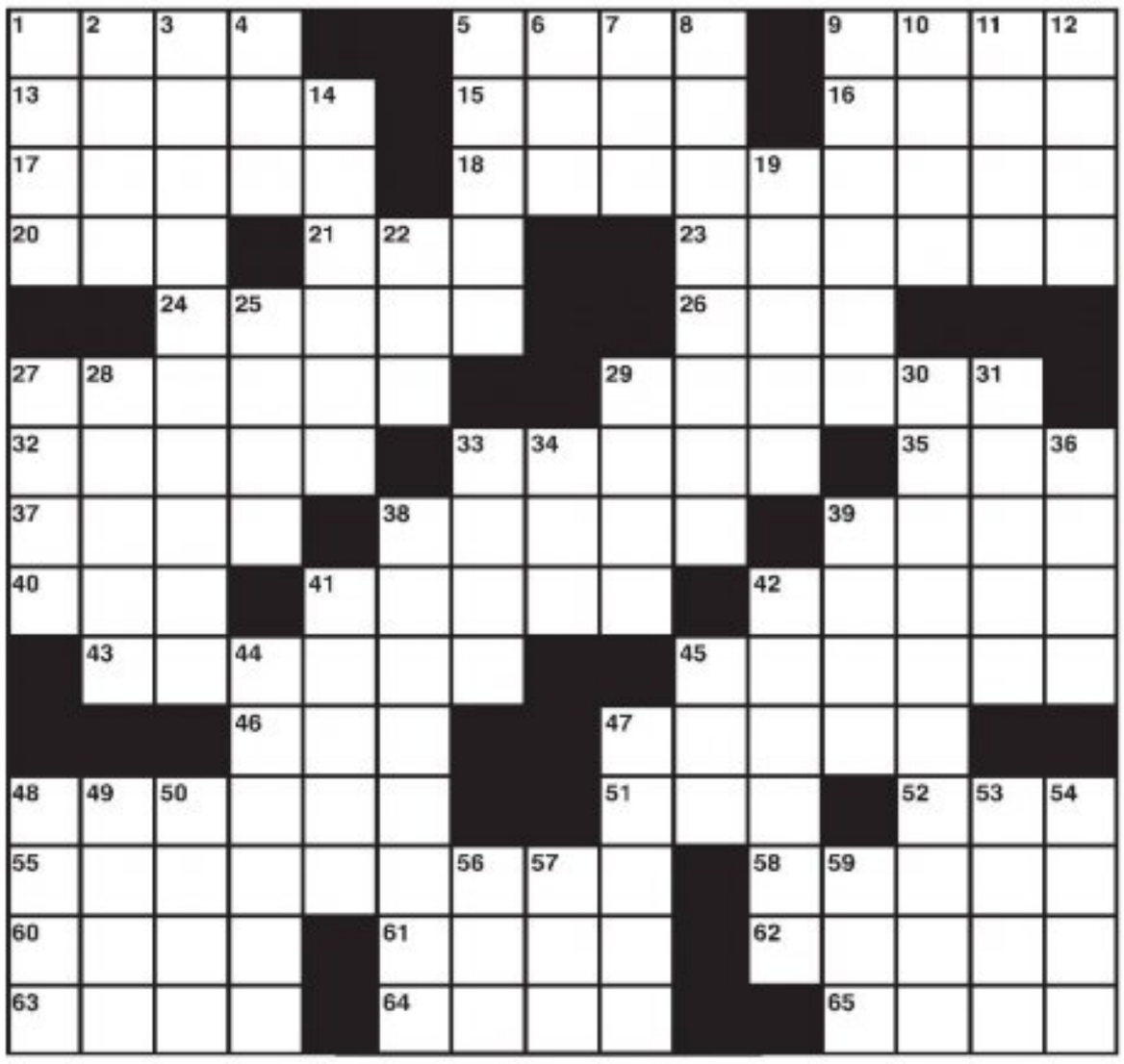

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ACROSS

1 Huge continent
5 Beauty mark
9 Shapeless mass
13 Iraq's dollar
15 Funeral notice
16 Pulley attachment
17 __ blink; not working
18 Removes from the field of play
20 __ mask; knit facial covering
21 Lemon meringue __
23 Rat or gopher
24 Complains
26 Worn-out horse
27 Minor facts
29 Tendons
32 Equestrian
33 BBQ attachments
35 Sup
37 As wise __ owl
38 Linger
39 Seymour or Pauley
40 Teacher's favorite
41 James Earl __
42 Terra-__; orangish clay
43 Happens again
45 Deadly
46 Lung contents
47 Mister Ed, for one
48 Rare
51 Suffix for doctor or passion
52 Winnebagos, for short
55 Cabinetmaker
58 Fess up
60 A single time
61 Frog's cousin
62 Rental agreement
63 Trial run
64 Nimble
65 In a __; quickly

DOWN

1 Commotions
2 Basin
3 Frighten
4 Ooh and __; express delight
5 Exodus leader
6 __-Wan Kenobi
7 Can cover
8 Endless time
9 Card game for four
10 "The __ Ranger"
11 __-and-shut case
12 "Father Knows __"
14 Fix
19 Sums borrowed
22 __ flash; instantly
25 Kiln
27 Pitfall
28 Staircase piece
29 Gentlemen
30 Meteorologist
31 Yuletide visitor
33 Without
34 Prefix for heat or paid
36 Small duck
38 Violent rushes of water
39 __ down; makes a note of
41 Fruit drink
42 Breakfast choice
44 Rug
45 "Thanks a __!"
47 Robust
48 Glencoe native
49 Walking stick
50 Rainbows
53 Passport stamp
54 Ladder rung
56 Spinning toy
57 Cochlea's place
59 __ Moines

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